

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dedication this Friday

New Barrier-Free Trails Opening at Prairie Creek Redwoods

EURKEA – Eleven miles of North Coast trails accessible to all visitors will be opened to the public at a ceremony Friday at the popular Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, 50 miles north of Eureka on Highway 101.

The 11 new miles of “barrier-free” trails are now interconnected throughout Redwood National Park and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. The two parks have been used as models for trail accessibility projects elsewhere in the state and country.

Friday’s event will be held at 10 a.m. at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park’s visitor’s center. It is being sponsored jointly by Redwood National Park, California State Parks and Whole Access, a nonprofit organization that works with government officials, park planners, and community leaders to develop park programs and facilities that combine accessibility with sound environmental design.

Whole Access Executive Director Phyllis Cangemi noted that there was less than one mile of “barrier-free” trails in the park just four years ago. The new additions now connect the visitor center, campground, valley, hiking trails, diverse nature experiences and many key places in the park.

“For people with disabilities, for whom access to the natural environment has been as remote as a ‘rocket to the moon,’ this is momentous – a new beginning,” Cangemi said.

Following the brief dedication ceremony on Friday, Cangemi and architect Barry Atwood will conduct a tour of a segment of improved trail between the visitor center and campground. The trail may be reached from Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. Trailhead parking is provided at mile post 129.

State Parks Superintendent Rick Sermon said accessibility to California State Park trails and facilities is a statewide priority. “We want to continue building on the success of these trails and make even more of our parks open to all visitors,” Sermon said.

The new trails were developed using a design Charette that now is being applied at other locations. For more information about Trail Design Charette, visit the Charette Website:
<http://www.wholeaccess.org/charrette>

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park is managed by California State Parks in cooperation with Redwood National Park in a complex referred to as Redwood National and State Parks. The complex also includes Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park and Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park. Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park also features world famous Fern Canyon, Gold Bluffs Beach, and Murrelet State Wilderness.

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